

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Favorable reconsideration of this application, in light of the present amendments and following discussion, is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-13 are pending. Claims 11-13 are newly added. Claims 1 and 2 are amended. Support for the amendment to Claim 1 can be found in Figs. 1 and 2, for example. Support for the amendment to Claim 2 is self-evident. Support for newly added Claim 11 can be found in Fig. 8, for example. Support for newly added Claim 12 can be found in Fig. 2, for example. Support for newly added Claim 13 can be found in Fig. 1, for example. No new matter is added.

In the outstanding Office Action, Claims 1-4 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as obvious over Suzuki et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,047,435, herein "Suzuki"). Claims 1-10 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as obvious over Policicchio (U.S. Patent No. 6,996,871, herein "Policicchio").

Regarding the rejection of Claims 1-4 as obvious over Suzuki, that rejection is respectfully traversed by the present response.

Amended independent Claim 1 recites, in part:

a base sheet having a first length and first width; and
a first wiping sheet having a second length and second width, as measured parallel to the first length and width, respectively, the first wiping sheet being disposed on one side of the base sheet, the first wiping sheet including
 a wiping portion adapted to be disposed on the head facing away from the head, and
 a projecting part including a part of the wiping portion, which is reinforced with another material superimposed on the first wiping sheet in an area corresponding to the projecting part,
 the projecting part being adapted to stick out of the edge of the head by a projecting length M when the cleaning sheet is attached to the head, and
 the projecting part having a repulsive force of 0.1 to 100 N/cm when deformed by a length M/3 in the direction opposite the projecting direction thereof,

the base sheet overlapping the first wiping sheet along the first length and first width such that the first width is larger than the second width, and portion of the base sheet extending beyond the second width of the first wiping sheet is configured to fold around the head of the cleaning tool independently of the first wiping sheet.

Accordingly, the cleaning sheet includes a base sheet. The cleaning sheet includes a wiping sheet. The base sheet overlaps the wiping sheet in the width direction such that the base sheet has a larger width than the first wiping sheet. A portion of the base sheet extending beyond the width of the wiping sheet is configured to fold around the head of the cleaning tool independently of the wiping sheet.

One benefit of the above-noted arrangement is that the base sheet may be used to attach the cleaning sheet to the head of the cleaning tool, and the first wiping sheet will extend as a projecting part from the edge of the head when the cleaning sheet is attached to the head.

In contrast, Suzuki describes a cleaning cloth (1) formed of two substantially identical parts the two identical parts are bonded at a bonded portion (2). An insertion space (S) formed by the two identical parts accepts a head portion (12) of a cleaning apparatus (11). As shown in Figs. 1, 2, 3, 8, 9, 12, 15, 16a, 16b, 17a, 17b, 18, 19, 25, 29a, 29b, 30a, and 30b, Suzuki does not teach or suggest that one of the substantially identical parts of the cleaning cloth (1) is a base sheet that extends in a width direction farther than the other sheet extends, much less that a portion of the base sheet extending beyond the width of the other sheet is configured to fold around the head of the cleaning tool independently of the other sheet. Rather, the sections of the substantially identical parts of the cleaning cloth (1) extending away from the pocket holding the cleaning apparatus (11) do not wrap around the cleaning apparatus (11). Furthermore, neither of the sections of the substantially identical portions of the cleaning cloth (1) extends farther than the other section, much less in the direction recited

in amended independent Claim 1. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that amended independent Claim 1 patentably distinguishes over Suzuki for at least the reasons discussed above.

Claims 2-4 each depend, directly or indirectly, from amended independent Claim 1 and patentably distinguish over Suzuki for at least the same reasons as amended independent Claim 1 does.

Regarding the rejection of Claims 1-10 as obvious over Policicchio, that rejection is respectfully traversed by the present response.

The outstanding Office Action relies on the scrubbing layer (41) for the feature of a first wiping sheet, and the outstanding Office Action relies on the components (405, 407, 409), which are not described in the specification, for the feature of a base sheet.¹

Applicants respectfully note that the cleaning pad (400) includes no component configured to wrap around a head of a cleaning tool. The undescribed components (405, 407, 409) are not configured to wrap around the head of a cleaning tool. Nor do the undescribed components (405, 407, 409) extend in any direction beyond the scrubbing layer (401). In fact, the undescribed components (405, 407, 409) appear to be shorter than the scrubbing layer (401) in one direction. Additionally, the undescribed components (405, 407, 409) would appear to be sponges of thick pads of some sort, not a base **sheet**. In any case, Policicchio fails to teach or suggest the recited base sheet overlapping the wiping sheet along a first width such that **the first width is larger than the second width, and a portion of the base sheet extending beyond the second width of the first wiping sheet and configured to fold around the head of the cleaning tool independently of the first wiping sheet** as recited in amended independent Claim 1. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that

¹ Outstanding Office Action, pages 3-4.

amended independent Claim 1 and Claims 2-10 depending therefrom patentably distinguish over Policicchio for at least the reasons discussed above.

Newly added dependent Claim 11 recites that the projecting part is an edge of the first wiping sheet.

Newly added dependent Claim 12 recites that the cleaning sheet is adapted to connect to the head of the cleaning tool with the base sheet disposed between the first wiping sheet and the head.

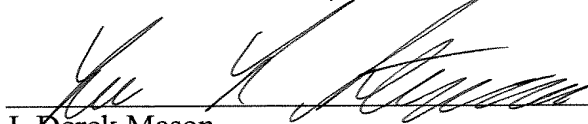
Newly added dependent Claim 13 recites that the first and second lengths are equal.

Applicants respectfully submit that newly added dependent Claims 11-13 patentably distinguish over the cited references for their own features in addition to distinguishing by virtue of dependency from amended independent Claim 1.

Consequently, in light of the above discussion and in view of the present amendment, the present application is believed to be in condition for allowance. An early and favorable action to that effect is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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